



Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
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November 6, 2002

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

RE: ~~Ex~~ Parte Notice

MB Docket Nos. 02-277, 01-235, 01-317, 00-244

In the matter of **2002** Biennial regulatory Review

Review of the FCC Broadcast Ownership Rules and other rules adopted pursuant to Section **202** of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 including cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, rules and policies concerning multiple ownership of radio and television broadcast stations in local markets, dual network ownership restrictions and other media ownership regulations.

The attached correspondence, which was sent to Chairman Michael Powell and copied to the other FCC Commissioners, was filed by the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO on behalf of the 14 signatory organizations. The letter requested that the Commission hold field hearings as part of its rulemaking process regarding the media ownership rules that are currently under review by the agency.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Almeida

Paul E. Almeida
President

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Enclosure

1025 Vermont Avenue, NW - Suite 10:

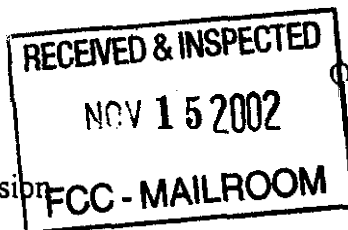
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Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO



October 22, 2002

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Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The purpose of this correspondence is to address a serious procedural concern that the undersigned organizations share with respect to the consolidated rule-making that is now before the Federal Communications Commission regarding six media ownership regulations and the separate rulemaking regarding cable ownership.

In today's already highly concentrated media marketplace, our organizations have continued to be advocates ~~for~~ robust competition and ownership diversity. In the news and information business, these precepts help preserve localism in news coverage, enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of news content, and assure a multiplicity of voices from a variety of independent sources. Most importantly, they expand the public's informed participation in our democracy. In entertainment, competition and diversity are the economic imperatives that stimulate the kinds of creativity and variety in programming that the American public has come to expect but which has been drastically reduced due to the abolition of the financial interest-syndication rules that resulted in a severe contraction in the number of independent program production owners.

In short, irrespective of the number of available media outlets, ownership matters as does the FCC's regulatory regimen that protects and advances these important public interest objectives. We happen to believe that the repeal of the rules now under review by the FCC or their substantial diminution will have a profound impact upon this nation's news, entertainment, information, and communications industries.

Given the potential impact that revisions of these rules will likely have on these industries as well as media markets of all sizes throughout the country, we believe it is incumbent upon the Commission to assure that its regulatory review process is open, fair and comprehensive. It should not be limited only to those organizations—principally the media industry—who have and will spend unlimited resources to influence the outcome of your deliberations. We urge the FCC to go the extra mile to assure the broadest public participation in what will likely be viewed as one of the Commission's most far-reaching regulatory actions in its history.

To this end we respectfully urge you in your capacity as FCC Chairman to call for field hearings on these matters. State and local constituencies from outside the beltway—who would not otherwise be heard on these important public policy issues—deserve the opportunity to present their views. Facilitating the opportunity to do so will go a long way to assuring the public that at least the process

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itself was inclusive and even-handed while providing commissioners with additional information and insights on which to base their final decisions.

The undersigned 14 national organizations collectively represent nearly one quarter million media professionals and artists who are involved in all phases of news and entertainment programming. We hope that, on their behalf, you will give **our** recommendation serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Actors' Equity Association	Patrick Quinn, President
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists	John Connolly, President
American Federation of Musicians	Thomas F. Lee , President
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO	Paul E. Almeida, President
Directors Guild of America	Martha Coolidge, President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Broadcast Division)	Edwin D. Hill, President
International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees	Thomas C. Short, President
National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, CWA	John S. Clark, President
National Writers Union (UAW 1981)	Jonathan Tasini, President
The Newspaper Guild, CWA	Linda R. Foley, President
Screen Actors Guild	Melissa Gilbert, President
The Caucus for Television Producers, Writers and Directors	Charles W. Fries, Chair
Writers Guild of America, East	Herb Sargent, President
Writers Guild of America, west	Victoria Rifkin, President

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner **Kevin J. Martin**